

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

- 1 to 19. (Canceled)
20. (New) A guard for a razor cartridge, the guard comprising:  
a skin-engaging surface; and  
a plurality of arcuate channels formed in the skin-engaging surface;  
wherein the arcuate channels are configured to pre-stretch the skin during shaving in a direction forward of a razor blade positioned in the razor cartridge and towards opposing ends of the razor blade prior to encountering the razor blade; and wherein the arcuate channels are configured to trap and evenly distribute shaving aid on the skin forward of the razor blade on the surface being shaved.
21. (New) The guard of claim 20, wherein the skin-engaging surface extends at least part way across a length of the razor cartridge.
22. (New) The guard of claim 20, wherein ends of the arcuate channels extend back towards the opposing ends of the razor blade.
23. (New) The guard of claim 20, wherein at least one of the arcuate channels has a radius that varies from at least one other of the arcuate channels.
24. (New) The guard of claim 20, wherein the arcuate channels are cut, etched, or molded into the skin-engaging surface.

25. (New) The guard of claim 20, wherein the guard is manufactured from a rubber, foam, a thermoplastic material, a thermoset material, or a combination of at least two of the foregoing materials.
26. (New) The guard of claim 20, wherein the plurality of arcuate channels comprises at least two sets of pluralities of arcuate channels.
27. (New) The guard of claim 26, wherein the at least two sets of pluralities of arcuate channels are equidistantly positioned on the skin-engaging surface.
28. (New) A razor cartridge, comprising:  
a plurality of skin-engaging elements mounted on a frame having two ends, the skin-engaging elements comprising:  
at least one blade having a sharpened cutting edge;  
a cap positioned aft of the at least one blade; and  
a guard positioned forward of the at least one blade, the guard having a skin-engaging surface and a plurality of arcuate channels;  
wherein the arcuate channels are configured to pre-stretch the skin in a direction forward of the blades and towards the two ends of the frame prior to encountering the at least one blade; and wherein the arcuate channels are configured to trap and evenly distribute shaving aid on the skin forward of the at least one blade on the surface being shaved.
29. (New) The razor cartridge of claim 28, wherein at least one of the arcuate channels has a radius that varies from at least one other of the arcuate channels.

30. (New) The razor cartridge of claim 28, wherein the plurality of arcuate channels comprises at least two sets of pluralities of arcuate channels.
31. (New) A wet shaving system, comprising:
  - a handle;
  - a razor cartridge mounted on the handle, the razor cartridge having a plurality of skin-engaging elements mounted on a frame, the skin-engaging elements comprising:
    - at least one blade having a sharpened cutting edge;
    - a cap positioned aft of the at least one blade; and
    - a guard positioned forward of the at least one blade, the guard having a skin-engaging surface and a plurality of arcuate channels;
  - wherein the arcuate channels are configured to pre-stretch the skin in a direction forward of the blades and towards the two ends of the frame prior to encountering the at least one blade; and wherein the arcuate channels are configured to trap and evenly distribute shaving aid on the skin forward of the at least one blade on the surface being shaved.
32. (New) The wet shaving system of claim 31, wherein the razor cartridge is removably mounted on the handle.
33. (New) The wet shaving system of claim 31, wherein the razor cartridge is pivotally mounted on the handle.
34. (New) The razor cartridge of claim 31, wherein at least one of the arcuate channels has a radius that varies from at least one other of the arcuate channels.
35. (New) A guard for a razor cartridge, the guard comprising:
  - a skin engaging structure; and

a plurality of curved valleys between curved guard fins formed on the skin engaging structure;

wherein the curved valleys are configured to grip the skin during shaving in a direction forward of a razor blade positioned in the razor cartridge and grip the skin more at the sides of the razor blade than in the middle prior to the skin contacting the razor blade.

36. (New) The guard of claim 35, wherein the skin engaging structure extends at least part way across a length of the razor cartridge.
37. (New) The guard of claim 35, wherein ends of the curved valleys extend back towards the opposing ends of the razor blade.
38. (New) The guard of claim 35, wherein at least one of the curved valleys has a radius that varies from at least one other of the curved valleys.
39. (New) The guard of claim 35, wherein the curved valleys are molded into the skin engaging structure.
40. (New) The guard of claim 35, wherein the guard is manufactured from an elastomeric material.
41. (New) The guard of claim 35, wherein the plurality of curved valleys comprises at least two sets of pluralities of curved valleys.
42. (New) The guard of claim 41, wherein the at least two sets of pluralities of curved valleys are equidistantly positioned on the skin engaging structure.
43. (New) A razor cartridge, comprising:  
a plurality of elements mounted on a frame having two ends, the elements comprising:

- at least one blade having a sharpened cutting edge;  
a cap positioned aft of the at least one blade; and  
a guard positioned forward of the at least one blade, the guard comprising:  
a skin engaging structure; and  
a plurality of curved valleys between curved guard fins formed on the skin  
engaging structure;  
wherein the curved valleys are configured to grip the skin during shaving  
in a direction forward of the at least one razor blade positioned in the razor cartridge and  
grip the skin more at the sides of the razor blade than in the middle prior to the skin  
contacting the at least one blade.
44. (New) The razor cartridge of claim 43, wherein at least one of the curved valleys has a  
radius that varies from at least one other of the curved valleys.
45. (New) The razor cartridge of claim 43, wherein the plurality of curved valleys comprises  
at least two sets of pluralities of curved valleys.
46. (New) A wet shaving system, comprising:  
a handle;  
a razor cartridge mounted on the handle, the razor cartridge having a plurality of  
elements mounted on a frame, the elements comprising:  
at least one blade having a sharpened cutting edge;  
a cap positioned aft of the at least one blade; and  
a guard positioned forward of the at least one blade, the guard comprising:  
a skin engaging structure; and  
a plurality of curved valleys between curved guard fins formed on the skin  
engaging structure;

wherein the curved valleys are configured to grip the skin during shaving in a direction forward of the at least one razor blade positioned in the razor cartridge and grip the skin more at the sides of the razor blade than in the middle prior to the skin contacting the at least one blade.

47. (New) The wet shaving system of claim 46, wherein the razor cartridge is removably mounted on the handle.
48. (New) The wet shaving system of claim 46, wherein the razor cartridge is movably mounted on the handle.
49. (New) The razor cartridge of claim 46, wherein at least one of the curved valleys has a radius that varies from at least one other of the curved valleys.